real-time data from each terminal unit to the host unit. Instead, a so-called batch process is executed, in which the data is collectively sent out at night or the like. This means that it is impossible to address quickly a trouble or the like in the circumstances of real-time processing during the duty service time of the terminal unit.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 14 with:

Another object of the present invention is to provide a POS system capable of coping with any trouble at headquarters, and reducing the speed and expenditures of coping with the trouble.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 18 with:

A further object of the present invention is to provide a POS system simplified in construction, able to reduce machine costs and improve reliability.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 2, line 22 with:

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a POS system, which, with data present in a headquarters server, does not only permit readily backing up data, but also permits real-time data processing.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 3, line 3 with:

Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a POS system, which does not require development of

any software for data transfer with headquarters and
software for master-related data production, thus
permitting reduction of software-related cost.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 7, line 18 with:

In this embodiment, the terminal unit side is
provided with only the terminal function in the intrinsic
sense, i.e., input/output means such as a keyboard, a touch
panel and as voice input means, display means for
displaying image and printing means for printing the image.
The terminal unit construction is thus simplified, and it
is possible to reduce the machine cost and improve the
reliability. Other potential sources of high cost, i.e.,
system program executing means and control software, are
provided on only the host unit side. Thus, POS system
execution program version updates are necessary only on the
host unit side, and version updates of each POS terminal
unit installed in each shop as in the prior art is
unnecessary. The system management thus can be greatly
simplified, and it is possible to obtain pronounced
corresponding cost reduction. Thus, any trouble can be
addressed by headquarters on the host unit side, ready line
management is permitted and system reliability is provided.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 13 with:

(2) Any trouble can be addressed by headquarters,
and it is possible to reduce the speed and expenditures of
coping with the trouble.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 19 with:

β9 (4) Since data is on the headquarters server, not only data can be readily backed up, but also the data processing can be executed as real-time processing.

Replace the paragraph starting at page 11, line 26 with:

β10 (6) It is unnecessary to develop any software for data transfer with respect to the headquarters server and software for master-related updating data production, and it is thus possible to reduce software-related cost.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(iii) a separate sheet(s) with the replacement paragraphs, marked up to show all changes relative to the previous version of the paragraphs, is filed herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: §112 if 2cE

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1. (AMENDED) A POS system comprising a host unit and a
2. plurality of POS terminal units connected thereto via a
3. predetermined communication line for data transfer/receipt
4. between each POS terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
5. maintenance programs for the POS system are
6. stored in the host unit;
7. execution programs of the POS system are stored
8. in the host unit; and

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